

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
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E. O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PBOR IS JO EG
SUBJ: DAYAN SUGGESTS UNILATERAL ISRAELI IMPLEMENTATION OF
SELF-RULE PLAN FOR WEST BANK AND THE GAZA STRIP

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. SPEAKING BEFORE A CLOSED MEETING OF THE FORUM ("BAMA")
FOR POLI-
TICAL AND SOCIAL CLARIFICATION ON MARCH 3, FOREIGN MINISTER
DAYAN SUGGESTED THAT ISRAEL MIGHT UNILATERALLY GRANT SELF-
RULE TO THE WEST BANK AND THE GAZA STRIP, EVEN IF THE PEACE
NEGOTIATIONS REMAIN STALLED. HE SAID THAT ISRAEL WANTS TO
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ABOLISH THE MILITARY GOVERNMENT AND FIND SOME KIND OF A
FRAMEWORK WHICH WILL MEET ITS BASIC SECURITY AND IDEOLOGICAL
NEEDS. HE DEFINED ISRAEL'S SECURITY NEEDS AS INCLUDING MILI-
TARY BASES
IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES AND ARRANGEMENTS AGAINST TERRORISM.
OTHER THAN THIS, DAYAN STATED THE ARABS SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO
RUN THEIR OWN EDUCATION, AGRICULTURE AND HEALTH SERVICES.

DAYAN NOTED THAT HIS SUGGESTION WAS FOOD FOR THOUGHT RATHER THAN AN ADVANCE ANNOUNCEMENT OF A PROPOSAL HE INTENDS TO PRESENT TO THE CABINET.

2. REACTION TO DAYAN'S SUGGESTION HAS SO FAR BEEN MINIMAL. PM BEGIN HAS TERMED THE IDEA DAYAN'S "PRIVATE OPINION." TRANSPORTATION MINISTER AMIT SAID THE PROPOSAL WAS "WORTH CONSIDERING." ON THE OTHER HAND, INTERIOR MINISTER BURG WAS SKEPTICAL.

3. GAZA MAYOR RASHAD SHAWWA TOLD THE PRESS HE DID NOT BELIEVE ISRAEL WOULD IMPLEMENT A PROPOSAL SUCH AS THE ONE SUGGESTED BY DAYAN. ALTHOUGH IN THEORY SUCH AN IDEA COULD BE IMPLEMENTED, SHAWWA BELIEVED IT WOULD ONLY BE A SHAM WITH REAL POWER REMAINING IN THE HANDS OF ISRAELI AUTHORITIES. DAYAN'S PROPOSAL WAS JUST "A SHOW FOR OUTSIDERS."

4. PRESS COMMENTARY ON THE DAYAN SUGGESTION WAS LIMITED TO A HAARETZ EDITORIAL WHICH SUGGESTED THAT DAYAN WAS NOT HAPPY WITH THE CURRENT POLITICAL SITUATION. SINCE HE IS UNSURE THAT THE SADAT INITIATIVE WILL PROVE SUCCESSFUL, DAYAN IS RAISING FOR DEBATE THE IDEA OF UNILATERALLY IMPLEMENTING THE SELF-RULE PLAN. HAARETZ BELIEVED THAT THE IMPORTANCE OF DAYAN'S REMARKS IS THEIR SIGNIFYING HIS UNDERSTANDING THAT A FAILURE OF THE CURRENT PHASE OF ISRAELI-EGYPTIAN NEGOTIATIONS CANNOT LEAD TO A RETURN TO THE PRE-SADAT VISIT SITUATION AS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IF NOTHING HAD HAPPENED. THE EDITORIAL ALSO SUGGESTED DAYAN'S AWARENESS THAT ISRAEL MUST MAKE SOME INFORMATION EFFORTS TO COMBAT ACCUSATIONS OF CREEPING ANNEXATION. HOWEVER, HAARETZ NOTED THAT DAYAN " WILL STILL HAVE TO UNDERTAKE CONSIDERABLE MOVEMENT IN ORDER TO PUT TOGETHER A PLAN THAT WILL TEMPT JORDAN INTO COOPERATING WITH ISRAEL IN DETERMINING NEW BORDERS AND SOLVING THE PALESTINIAN PROBLEM." END UNCLASSIFIED

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5. COMMENT: THE FORUM (THE HEBREW WORD "BAMA" MEANS FORUM OR PLATFORM) THAT DAYAN ADDRESSED IS THE GROUP OF DAYAN ADMIRERS THAT WAS ORGANIZED LAST SEPTEMBER. ITS MEMBERSHIP CUTS ACROSS PARTY LINES, CONSISTING MAINLY OF LA'AM PEOPLE, ACTIVISTS IN THE MOSHAV MOVEMENT AND OTHERS IN THE RIGHT-WING OF THE LABOR PARTY. AMONG ITS LEADERS ARE LA'AM MK ZALMAN SHOVAL, AND FORMER LABOR PARTY MK MORDECHAI BEN PORAT. SINCE COMING INTO BEING THE FORUM HAS MET FROM TIME TO TIME AS A DISCUSSION GROUP, USUALLY TO HEAR DAYAN. ALTHOUGH DAYAN PUBLICLY DISCLAIMS INTEREST, THERE IS INCREASING TALK OF ORGANIZING A NEW POLITICAL

PARTY UNDER HIM AND BAMA IS SEEN AS ITS POTENTIAL NUCLEUS.

6. DAYAN HAS LONG ADVOCATED A FUNCTIONAL SOLUTION FOR THE WEST BANK AND THE GAZA STRIP, AN IDEA AT THE HEART OF BEGIN'S SELF-RULE PLAN. BY REPEATING HIS PROPOSAL BEFORE THE BEGIN VISIT TO THE US AND DURING A LOW POINT IN ISRAELI-EGYPTIAN NEGOTIATIONS, DAYAN MAY BE NOTING THAT ISRAEL HAS OPTIONS REGARDING THE FUTURE OF THE TERRITORIES IF THE NEGOTIATIONS BREAK DOWN. LEWIS

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